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*For Immediate Release...*

## *Corrections News*

November 5, 2008

### **WMCC Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On Friday, November 7, 2008, Western Missouri Correctional Center (WMCC) in Cameron will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. WMCC will host a formal ceremony at 10 a.m. to recognize the 25 staff that have been with the facility for all 20 years of its existence. WMCC also plans to present the City of Cameron with a gift.

Festivities preceding the celebration began on Monday, with staff receiving free mugs and enjoyed cider, hot chocolate, coffee and donuts. The anniversary celebration continues with staff festivities that include a chili and soup cook-off. WMCC staff will pay \$1.00 to sample chili and soup and cast a vote for their favorite. Proceeds will go to the Cameron Food Pantry. A staff scavenger hunt is also planned throughout the week highlighting the history of WMCC and its role in the community.

In October, WMCC staff donated 501 pounds of items to the Cameron Food Pantry. Items included canned goods, non perishable items, produce, and personal hygiene items. To date, WMCC has collected \$277 for donation to the food pantry.

Missouri Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford, Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) Director Tom Clements, Assistant Directors Dwayne Kempker and Mike Kemna, and WMCC Warden Jean Ann Johnson will be at the ceremonial reception on Friday. State Representative Jim Guest and State Senator Brad Lager are also planning to attend. One hundred and twenty-five community leaders and retirees have also been invited.

“I’m very proud of our WMCC staff and their continued dedication to public safety,” Director Crawford said. “Through the years, WMCC staff has grown to play a successful role in the local community. We’re committed to Cameron, and we appreciate the support we’ve received from the community.”

WMCC was dedicated in November 1988. It is a medium security (C-3 and C-4) facility that currently houses 1,723 male offenders, with a maximum capacity for 1,923. A central services building provides medical, educational and vocational training and services, as well as a library, chapel, laundry, food service and warehouse facilities. It is located on 385 acres off U.S. Highway

# Missouri Department of Corrections

Matt Blunt • Governor  
Larry Crawford • Director

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69 in Cameron. There are currently 483 staff employed at WMCC, with 54 vacancies. As of last year, its annual payroll was approximately \$15.4 million.

In November 2007, WMCC began undergoing some major changes. A capital improvement security enhancement project saw the replacement of all fire alarms and locking system wiring and panels in all buildings on site. This project is scheduled to be completed in May 2009.

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